

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A multifunctional operating device~~[, in particular]~~ for installation in a vehicle~~;~~ with a rotary switch for selection of functions which may be displayed in ~~[a]~~ a plurality of display ~~[field]~~ fields on a monitor unit, characterized in that the multifunctional operating device has a combination made up of the rotary switch and a plurality of press switches, the press switches being mounted around the rotary switch, in that the press switches are configured ~~[and/or mounted]~~ in such a way that they are haptically distinguishable, and in that ~~[the]~~ an arrangement of display fields on the monitor unit which are associated with the press switches correspond at least schematically to ~~[the]~~ an arrangement of the press switches.
2. (Currently Amended) The multifunctional operating device as specified in Claim 1, wherein ~~[the]~~ a position of the display field associated with the rotary switch relative to that of the display fields associated with the press switches corresponds at least schematically to ~~[the]~~ a position of the rotary switch relative to the pressure switches.
3. (Currently Amended) The multifunctional operating device as specified in Claim 1, wherein a minimum of one indicator symbol may be shown within a display field, it being possible for one function control device, one function control element, one function, or function value to be symbolized by one indicator symbol~~[or the indicator symbol being a written character]~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The multifunctional operating device as specified in Claim 3, wherein the indicator symbol in the display field associated with the press switch may be selected by operation of one of the press switches[~~and in particular by be optically enhanced~~] and wherein the selected indicator symbol is optically enhanced during said selection.

5. (Previously Presented) The multifunctional operating device as specified in Claim 3, wherein additional indicator symbols may be called up in the display fields associated with the press switches by operation of one of the press switches.

6. (Previously Presented) The multifunctional operating device as specified in Claim 3, wherein a menu containing at least one indicator symbol may be called up by operation of one of the press switches, it being possible to display the menu in the display field associated with the rotary switch.

7. (Currently Amended) The multifunctional operating device as specified in Claim 3, wherein one of the indicator symbols or the indicator symbol in the display field associated with the rotary switch may be selected by rotation of the rotary switch[~~and in particular by be optically enhanced~~] and the selected indicator symbol is optically enhanced during said selection.

8. (Previously Presented) The multifunctional operating device as specified in Claim 7, wherein, as a result of operation of a confirm switch after selection of the indicator symbol by the rotary switch, the function control device or the function control element may be is activated,

the function may be executed, the value of the value may be converted, or the written character may be set.

9. (Currently Amended) The multifunctional operating device as specified in Claim 7, wherein, as a result of operation of one or more ~~[of the]~~ confirm switches, a submenu which is associated with the indicator symbol selected by the rotary switch and which comprises at least one indicator symbol, may be displayed within a display field associated with the rotary switch.

10. (Currently Amended) The multifunctional operating device as specified in Claim 1, wherein, as a result of operation of one of the press switches, ~~[a or the function control device or a or the function control element may be]~~ a function control device or a function control element is activated or ~~[a or the]~~ a function ~~[may be]~~ is executed or ~~[a or the]~~ a function value ~~[may be]~~ is converted.

11. (Currently Amended) The multifunctional operating device as specified in Claim 1, wherein the multifunctional operating device has at least one selector switch by means of which ~~[a or]~~ an additional function control device to be operated ~~[may be]~~ is selected, the selector switch being in the form of a rotary, press, or sliding switch.

12. (Previously Presented) The multifunctional operating device as specified in Claim 11, wherein, after operation of the selector switch, the function control device selected may be presented on the monitor unit as an indicator symbol within a display field provided for this purpose.

13. (Previously Presented) The multifunctional operating device as specified in Claim 11, wherein, after operation of the selector switch, the function control elements and/or functions and/or function values may be displayed as indicator symbols within the display fields which are associated with the press switches.

14. (Previously Presented) The multifunctional operating device as specified in Claim 1, wherein the rotary switch is also a press switch.

15. (Previously Presented) The multifunctional operating device as specified in Claim 14, wherein the rotary switch is a confirm switch.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The multifunctional operating device as specified in Claim 4, wherein additional indicator symbols may be called up in the display fields associated with the press switches by operation of one of the press switches.

18. (Currently Amended) The multifunctional operating device as specified in Claim 6, wherein one of the indicator symbols or the indicator symbol in the display field associated with the rotary switch may be selected by rotation of the rotary switch[, ~~and in particular by be optically enhanced~~] and the selected indicator symbol is optically enhanced during said selection.

19. (Previously Presented) The multifunctional operating device as specified in Claim 12, wherein, after operation of the selector switch, the function control elements and/or functions and/or function values may be displayed as indicator symbols within the display fields which are associated with the press switches.

20. (Currently Amended) The multifunctional operating device as specified in Claim 8, wherein, as a result of operation of one or more [~~of the~~] confirm switches, a submenu which is associated with the indicator symbol selected by the rotary switch and which comprises at least one indicator symbol, may be displayed within a display field associated with the rotary switch.

21. (New) The multifunctional operating device as specified in Claim 1, wherein the multifunctional operating device may be use to operate at least one function control device, each function control device selected from the group consisting of a radio set, a compact cassette unit, a TV set, a compact disc player, a vehicle computer, a telephone, a theft prevention system, an air conditioning unit control unit, a time control and time display unit, a navigation system, a traffic information system, a mail system and a speed control system.